[26th November 1948

Admissions to the Vivekananda College.

* 149 *Q.*—Sri B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Hon. Minister issued a circular to the management of the Vivekananda College, Mylapore, in March 1948 to constitute advisory committees for the purpose of admissions to the said college; and if so, whether the Government propose to lay a copy of the communiqué on the table of the House; and

(*b*) whether the Managing Authorities of the college have sent a reply to the Hon. Minister and if so, to what effect and whether the Government will be pleased to lay the reply on the table of the House?

The Hon. Sri T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(*a*) No communication or circular of the kind mentioned in the question has been sent by me to the Vivekananda College or to any other college. Presumably, the hon. Member refers to G.O. Ms. No. 404, Education, dated 2nd March 1948, advising aided colleges to constitute advisory committees. A copy of the Government Order has been laid on the table of the House in answer to question No. 124.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer above."

Policy as regards afforestation.

* 150 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state what the general policy of Government is in regard to afforestation and how they propose to give effect to it?

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The policy of the Government is to afforest degenerated forest and waste lands, the objects being

(1) to prevent soil erosion and thereby to protect agricultural land and agriculturists' houses;

(2) to relieve the fuel and timber shortage; and

(3) to produce materials which have great commercial value.

"To give effect to this policy the Government have already undertaken a number of afforestation scheme such as

(i) casuarina plantations in Guntur, Nellore, Chingleput, Salem South (Padugais) divisions;

(ii) plantations on the Hagari and Pennar river banks;

(iii) wattle cultivation on the Nilgiris and Palnis.

"They are also having the following schemes under their consideration:—

(*a*) Afforestation of waste lands in the Madura, Ramnad and Tirunelveli districts.

(*b*) Afforestation of waste lands in Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is there any proposal for afforestation of lands in the Rayalaseema? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"At present there is no specific scheme for Rayalaseema. The Working Plan Officer is working in Rayalaseema and on the receipt of the plan the question will be taken up."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it not a fact that more forests are being cut than or being grown? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" It is regrettable fact that considerable forests are being cut. Ten lakhs of tons of firewood are being cut to produce 2 lakhs of tons of charcoal for buses and lorries."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if afforestation and regeneration schemes are pursued side by side? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" These schemes are being continued."

Town-Planning Scheme of the Courtallam Panchayat Board.

* 151 *Q.*—SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR (on behalf of Sri K. Manathunainatha Desigar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Government have taken on the Town-Planning Scheme prepared by the Courtallam Panchayat Board in consultation with the Director of Town-Planning; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken on the recommendations of the Special Committee presided over by the late Minister Mr. Daniel Thomas regarding proposals for the improvement of Courtallam as a health resort?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The Town-Planning Scheme has been received from the Director of Town-Planning for sanction by the Government under section 14 of the Town-Planning Act. The matter is under consideration and it is hoped that the scheme will be sanctioned shortly.

" (*b*) The recommendations are under the consideration of the Government."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing Collector or other local officers so that the Committee may meet more often? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Mr. Daniel Thomas was the Chairman of the Committee. The resolution was passed in February. The matter is under correspondence."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" If the Minister were to be President, the Committee rarely meets. If the local authorities were to be the President, it may meet as often as necessary. Will the Government consider that suggestion? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It will be considered."